



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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TO: SUPERVISOR DON KNABE, Chairman
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FROM: LLOYD W. PELLMAN 
County Counsel

RE: **Supreme Court Refuses to Exercise Jurisdiction in Vehicle
License Fee Lawsuit**

In a brief order issued today, the California Supreme Court denied the University of California Students Association petition that had asked the high court to block Governor Schwarzenegger's program cuts taken under the Budget Act's "deficiency appropriation" provisions. The challenged cuts were made under Section 27 of the Act and are part of measures the Governor took to restore the VLF backfill for local governments.

The denial is "without prejudice to the commencement of any appropriate proceeding in the superior court" signaling that the court did not address the merits of the students' claims. The contention that both the Governor's rollback of VLF fees and his restoration of backfill for local governments are illegal must now first be weighed by trial and appellate courts.

As we previously advised you, a taxpayer lawsuit making similar claims was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by Kiesel, Boucher & Larson, LLP, entitled Brooks v. Schwarzenegger, No. BC 309929, on January 30, 2004.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact me, Assistant County Counsel Lawrence B. Launer at (213) 974-1881, or Principal Deputy County Counsel Thomas M. Tyrrell at (213) 974-1880.

LWP:TMT:er

c: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller